

REMARKS

Claims 2-6 are now pending in the application. Claims 1 and 7-12 have been withdrawn. Claims 6 and 13-14 are cancelled. Claim 2 is currently amended. Claim 15 has been added as new. Basis for these amendments can be found throughout the specification as originally filed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohashi (U.S. Pat. No. 6,580,373). Claims 2-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohashi in view of Fujinami et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,259,359). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended Claim 2 by adding the limitation that "synthesized image" is viewed from a virtual viewpoint so as to distinguish the "synthesized image" of the claimed invention from the "composite image" of Ohashi, which is obtained by simply putting the captured images together.

Regarding Claim 4, Fig. 16 of Ohashi shows an image including only a front tire 3a. In contrast, Claim 2 from which Claim 4 depends recites "including grounding portions of both front and rear tires.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-0750, under Order No. 5077-000092/US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: August 28, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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